Increasing the operating speed of trains

2229. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways have target to increase the maximum operating speed on main lines from 140km./hr. to 160 km./hr.

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this direction;

(c) whether there are any plans to build dedicated lines for heavy freight and passenger lines, separately; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Price of wagons

2230. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the price of wagons for year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for BOXN, BCNA and PTPN wagons;

(b) whether the above prices are inclusive of the cost of the material to be arranged by the wagon builders and their market price;

(c) the free issue material by Railways; and

(d) the approximate conversion cost per wagon for the above three types?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The prices of wagons (excluding the cost of free supply items) are as under:

	BOXN	BCNA	BTPN
1998-99	5,03,259	5,41,536	5,89,467
1999-2000	5,02,202	5,55,358	6,08,925
2000-2001	4,24,500	4,84,000	5,78,000

(b) Yes, Sir. The purchase price of all the materials arranged by wagon builders is not available with Ministry of Railways. However, three major items viz. Bogie, Coupler & Air Brake are also purchased by Railways for wagon production in 3 Railway Workshops. Year-wise, per wagon purchase cost (excluding duties and taxes) of these three items by Railways is Rs. 2,54,851 for the year 1998-99, Rs. 2,46,370 for the year 1999-2000 and Rs. 2,19,335 for the year 2000-2001.

(c) Steel, Wheelsets and Cartridge Tapered Roller Bearing are free supply items from Railways.

(d) Conversion cost may vary from builder to builder. This is not available with the Railways. Cost given in (a) includes conversion cost as well as cost of bought out items arranged by wagon builders.

Bullet Trains

2231. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has received a credit of Rs. 50 crore from Spain to undertake a survey and prepare the feasibility report for introduction of bullet train services in the 550 km. stretch between Mumbai and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the proposal to utilise this amount; and

(c) if so, by when the policy is likely to be framed and the amount to be utilised?